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Item 106 of the preliminary list*

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 23 April 1997 from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, addressed to you regarding the illicit drug trafficking in Cambodia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 106 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the First Prime Minister of Cambodia addressed to the Secretary-General

Recent serious events in Cambodia concerning illicit drug trafficking have highlighted the urgency to control these current trends. If professional assistance is not received urgently then all efforts made by the international community, foreign Governments and the Cambodian people themselves will have been in vain. The trafficking of drugs threatens to destroy the very fabric of Cambodian life.

It is for this reason that I am appealing to you, in accordance with the principles of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992 as the major source within the United Nations system for financial and technical assistance, mainly to developing countries.

This programme can truly show its concern and altruistic ideals by serving as a worldwide centre of expertise and information on drug abuse and play a major role in monitoring developments in this field, in conjunction with advising on methods to integrate rural development and crop subsidization for our rural poor, who have been lured into this illegal industry. Your invaluable experience can recommend appropriate vital action by providing financial and technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia and its people.

Officials at all levels of the Royal Government of Cambodia, including myself, stand ready to toil hand-in-hand with any team you may see fit to dispatch to Cambodia to assist us in combating this reprehensible situation which is becoming a grave threat to Cambodian society.

I look forward to your response and eagerly await details of how you may plan to join the people of Cambodia in this worldwide danger to all mankind.

(Signed) Norodom RANARIDDH